

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~peptide~~ compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said ~~peptide~~ compound represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂, L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂ or L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

4. – 19. (Canceled)

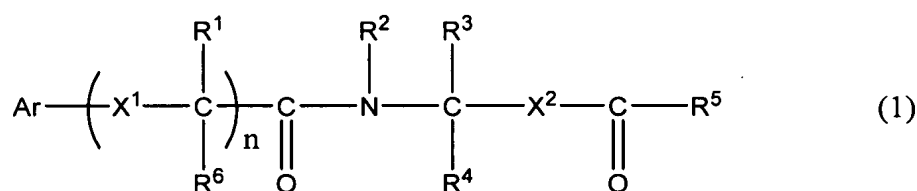
20. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said ~~peptide~~ compound represented by Formula (1) is D-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

21. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said ~~peptide~~ compound represented by Formula (1) is D-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

22. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said ~~peptide~~ compound represented by Formula (1) is L-1-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

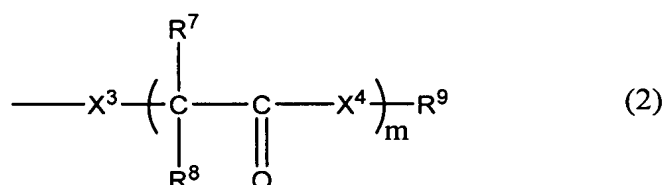
23. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said peptide compound represented by Formula (1) is L-2-naphthylalanyl-Arg-LeuNH₂.

24. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~having a naphthyl group and~~ represented by the following Formula (1) or a salt thereof



wherein

R⁵ represents a group represented by the following Formula (2),



~~m represents an integer of 0 or 1,~~

~~when~~ wherein m is 1 and:

Ar represents a unsubstituted naphthyl group or a substituted naphthyl group having one or more substituents,

R¹, R² and R³ each represent independently a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted straight-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁴ represents ~~a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted basic amino acid side chain, an unsubstituted amino group, an unsubstituted amidino group, an unsubstituted guanidino group, an unsubstituted straight chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to~~

~~6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain aminoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain amidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted straight chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted branched chain guanidinoalkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted amidinoaryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms,~~

X¹ is ~~a single bond or an unsubstituted alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, an unsubstituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a substituted alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, or a substituted aminoalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and one or more substituents, wherein said substituent is selected from the group consisting of a straight chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a straight chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and a branched chain oxyalkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

X² is a single bond ~~or a straight chain or branched chain alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

R⁶ represents a hydrogen atom or -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,

n is 1,

X³ ~~represents O or~~ represents -NR¹⁰-,

X⁴ represents -O- or -NR¹¹-,

R⁷ represents a ~~hydrogen atom,~~ the side chain of an amino acid having a hydrophobic side chain selected from the group consisting of valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, threonine, and tryptophan, ~~or a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~

R⁸, R¹⁰, and R¹¹ each represent independently a hydrogen atom or a straight-chain or branched-chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

R⁹ represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, or an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, ~~a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxy group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein

Ar of Formula (1) represents a 1-naphthyl group or a 2-naphthyl group,

R¹, R² and R³ of Formula (1) each represent a hydrogen atom,

R⁴ of Formula (1) represents ~~a basic~~ an unsubstituted basic amino acid side chain having an amino group or a guanidino group,

X¹ of Formula (1) is a methylene group,

~~X² of Formula (1) is a single bond,~~

R⁶ of Formula (1) represents -NHY, wherein Y represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon

atoms, a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,
~~n of Formula (1) represents an integer of 1, and~~
~~R⁵ of Formula (1) represents a group represented by Formula (2),~~
wherein
X³ of Formula (2) ~~represents -O- or~~ represents -NH-,
X⁴ of Formula (2) represents -O- or -NH-,
R⁷ of formula (2) represents a ~~hydrogen atom, the~~ side chain of a neutral amino acid having a hydrophobic side chain selected from the group consisting of valine, norvaline, leucine, norleucine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, phenylglycine, and threonine, ~~or a straight chain or branched chain alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,~~
R⁸ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom,
R⁹ of Formula (2) represents a hydrogen atom, an acyl group having 2 to 22 carbon atoms, or an alkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, ~~a hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms, or a 3-alkoxy-2-hydroxypropyl group wherein the alkoxyl group has 1 to 22 carbon atoms,~~
and ~~m of Formula (2) represents an integer of 1.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, and a ~~pharmaceutically~~ cosmetically acceptable carrier.

27. (Currently Amended) A melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition which comprises, as an active ingredient, a compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24 that exhibits a 50% inhibitory concentration of cAMP production (IC₅₀) of 100 nM or less, and a ~~pharmaceutically~~ cosmetically acceptable carrier.

28. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said composition is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

29. (Previously Presented) The melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said melanocyte-stimulating hormone inhibitory compound has a molecular weight of 800 or less.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of whitening which comprises, contacting an object to be whitened with an effective amount of a whitening agent comprising as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said whitening agent is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

31. – 32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 24 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of whitening which comprises, contacting an object to be whitened with an effective amount of a whitening agent comprising as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said whitening agent is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

35. – 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 27 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

38. (Currently Amended) A whitening agent which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26 and a ~~pharmaceutically~~ cosmetically acceptable carrier, wherein said whitening agent is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

39. – 40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic or external preparation for the skin which comprises, as an active ingredient, at least one compound or salt thereof as claimed in Claim 26 and a cosmetically acceptable carrier.

42. (New) A method of whitening which comprises, contacting an object to be whitened with an effective amount of a whitening agent comprising as an active ingredient, at

least one compound or salt thereof of the composition as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said whitening agent is an inhibitor of pigmentation by ultraviolet rays.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-19 was previously canceled.

Claims 31, 32, 35, 36, 39, and 40 are canceled herein.

Claims 3, 20-27, 30, 34, and 38 have been amended.

Claim 42 has been added.

The amendment of Claims 3, 20-27, 30, 34, and 38 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and by the specification at page 8, line 10 to page 14, line 18 and page 20, line 25 to page 24, line 13. Additional support for the amendment of Claims 26, 27, and 38 is provided by page 20, line 13 to page 23, line 1. Additional support for the amendment of Claims 30, 34, and 38, as well as new Claim 42, is provided by Test Example 4 and page 18, lines 17-22.

No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment.